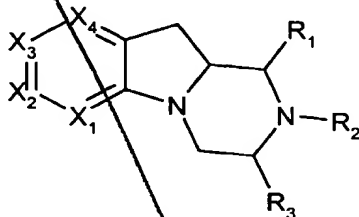


1. (Amended) A chemical compound of formula (I):



(I)

wherein:

R₁ to R₃ are independently selected from hydrogen and lower alkyl;

X₁ is selected from N and C-R₄;

X₂ is selected from N and C-R₅;

X₃ is selected from N and C-R₆;

X₄ is selected from N and C-R₇;

R₄, R₅ and R₇ are independently selected from hydrogen, halogen, hydroxy, alkyl, aryl, alkoxy, aryloxy, alkoyl, aryloyl, alkylthio, arylthio, alkylsulfoxyl, arylsulfoxyl, alkylsulfonyl, arylsulfonyl, amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino, nitro, cyano, carboalkoxy, carboaryloxy and carboxy; and

R₆ is selected from hydrogen, halogen, alkyl, aryl, aryloxy, alkylthio, arylthio, alkylsulfoxyl, arylsulfoxyl, alkylsulfonyl, arylsulfonyl, amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino and cyano;

with the proviso that R₄ to R₇ are not all selected as hydrogen,

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, addition compound or prodrug thereof.

2. (Amended) A compound according to claim 1, wherein R₁ is selected from hydrogen and methyl.

3. (Amended) A compound according to claim 1, wherein R₂ is hydrogen.

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4. (Amended) A compound according to claim 1, wherein R₃ is selected from hydrogen and methyl.

5. (Amended) A compound according to claim 1, wherein X₂ is C-R₅.

6. (Amended) A compound according to claim 1, wherein X₃ is C-R₆.

7. (Amended) A compound according to claim 1, wherein X₄ is C-R₇.

8. (Amended) A compound according to claim 1, wherein X₁ is C-R₄.

9. (Amended) A compound according to claim 1, wherein two of R₄, R₅, R₆ and R₇ are hydrogen.

10. (Amended) A compound according to claim 9, wherein R₄ and R₆ are hydrogen.

11. (Amended) A compound according to claim 1, wherein two of R₄, R₅, R₆ and R₇ are independently selected from hydrogen, chlorine, fluorine, trifluoromethyl and bromine.

12. (Amended) A compound according to claim 1, wherein three of R₄, R₅, R₆ and R₇ are hydrogen.

13. (Amended) A compound according to claim 12, wherein R₄, R₆ and R₇ are hydrogen.

14. (Amended) A compound according to claim 1, wherein R₄ is hydrogen.

15. (Amended) A compound according to claim 1, wherein R₅ is halogen.

16. (Amended) A compound according to claim 1, wherein R₆ is hydrogen.

17. (Amended) A compound according to claim 1, wherein R₇ is halogen.

18. (Amended) A compound according to claim 1 which is selected from:

(*RS*) 7-chloro-1,2,3,4,10,10a-hexahydropyrazino[1,2-*a*]indole,

(*RS*) 9-chloro-1,2,3,4,10,10a-hexahydropyrazino[1,2-*a*]indole,

(*RS*) 7-chloro-8-methyl-1,2,3,4,10,10a-hexahydropyrazino[1,2-*a*]indole,

(10a*R*) 7-chloro-1,2,3,4,10,10a-hexahydropyrazino[1,2-*a*]indole,

(*RS*) 7-bromo-1,2,3,4,10,10a-hexahydropyrazino[1,2-*a*]indole,

(3*S*, 10a*R*) 8-chloro-2-methyl-1,2,3,4,10,10a-hexahydropyrazino[1,2-*a*]indole,

(10a*R*) 8-chloro-1,2,3,4,10,10a-hexahydropyrazino[1,2-*a*]indole and

(3*S*, 10a*R*) 8-chloro-2-methyl-1,2,3,4,10,10a-hexahydropyrazino[1,2-*a*]indole.

21. (Amended) A method according to claim 28, wherein the disorders of the central nervous system are selected from depression, atypical depression, bipolar disorders, anxiety disorders, obsessive-compulsive disorders, social phobias or panic states, sleep disorders, sexual dysfunction, psychoses, schizophrenia, migraine and other conditions associated with cephalic pain or other pain, raised intracranial pressure, epilepsy, personality disorders, age-related behavioural disorders, behavioural disorders associated with dementia, organic mental disorders, mental disorders in childhood, aggressivity, age-related memory disorders, chronic fatigue syndrome, drug and alcohol addiction, obesity, bulimia, anorexia nervosa and premenstrual tension.

22. (Amended) A method according to claim 28 wherein the damage to the central nervous system is by trauma, stroke, neurodegenerative diseases or toxic or infective CNS diseases.

23. (Amended) A method according to claim 22, wherein said toxic or infective CNS disease is encephalitis or meningitis.

24. (Amended) A method according to claim 28, wherein the cardiovascular disorder is thrombosis.

25. (Amended) A method according to claim 28, wherein the gastrointestinal disorder is dysfunction of gastrointestinal motility.

28. (Amended) A method of treatment of disorders of the central nervous system; damage to the central nervous system; cardiovascular disorders; gastrointestinal disorders; diabetes insipidus, and sleep apnea, comprising administering to a patient in need of such treatment an effective dose of a compound of formula (I) as set out in claim 1.

29. (Amended) A method of treatment according to claim 21, wherein said disorder is obesity.

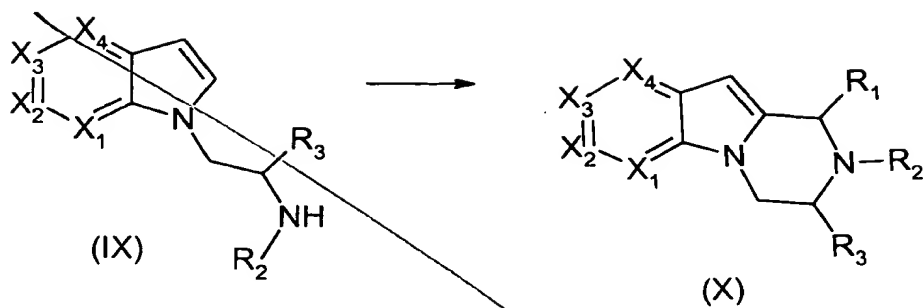
30. (Amended) A method according to claim 28, wherein said treatment is prophylactic treatment.

32. (Amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of formula (I) as set out in claim 1, in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or excipient.

34. (Amended) A process for the preparation of a compound of formula (I) according to claim 1, said process comprising the steps of:

(i) treating a compound of formula (IX) with an aldehyde of formula R, CHO and then exposing to acid to obtain a compound of formula (X), wherein X_1 , X_2 , X_3 , X_4 , R_2 and R_3 are as described in claim 1, and

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(ii) reduction of a compound of formula (X).

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